

Application Serial No.: 09/287,631
Attorney Docket No.: 3063.0396-02

Suret 33. (Amended) A method of making a surface covering having multiple layers including a wear layer, and an embossed design, comprising:
chemically embossing at least a portion of a first layer, and
mechanically embossing at least a portion of a second layer, wherein the first layer is disposed below the second layer and a chemically embossed portion of the first layer has a depth greater than any embossed portion of the second layer,
said method further comprising applying said wear layer before chemically embossing.

910 Please add the following new claims 39-46:

1 39. A method of making a floor covering, comprising:
a) providing a surface covering comprising a backing layer; a foamable layer; and a design layer containing at least one retarder composition in at least a portion thereof and in contact with said foamable layer;
b) providing a wear layer and curing said wear layer, thereby expanding said foamable layer to form a foam layer and chemically embossing that portion of said foam layer in contact with said retarder composition; and
c) mechanically embossing a surface texture onto said wear layer, wherein a chemically embossed portion of said foam layer has an emboss depth greater than the emboss depth of any portion of said mechanically embossed portion.

2

Application Serial No.: 09/287,631
Attorney Docket No.: 3063.0396-02

10/14 10/9
~~30.~~ The method of claim ~~29~~, further comprising the step of softening said wear layer by subjecting it to a temperature sufficient to soften it prior to said mechanical embossing step.

11/12 10/9
~~31.~~ The method of claim ~~30~~, further comprising the steps of curing and subsequently cooling said wear layer to reduce its temperature to approximately ambient temperature prior to said softening step.

12/13 10/9
~~32.~~ The method of claim ~~30~~, wherein said softening step includes subjecting said wear layer to a sufficient softening temperature of about 195°C to 215°C.

13/14 10/9
~~33.~~ The method of claim ~~30~~, wherein the mechanical embossing achieves an emboss depth of about 1 to about 12 mils.

14/15 10/9
~~34.~~ The method of claim ~~30~~, wherein the total embossing depth of the wear layer and foam layer combined is about 3 to about 8 mils.

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~~35.~~ The method of claim ~~30~~, wherein the foam layer comprises foam cells beneath the mechanically embossed portion of the wear layer which are not crushed or collapsed.